

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 855

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served August 16, 1968

Application of D. C. Transit)
System, Inc., for Authority)
to Increase Fares.)

Application No. 505

Docket No. 186

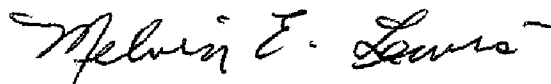
By Order No. 854, issued August 15, 1968, the Commission suspended certain tariffs proposing increases in fares. That order also set the matter for hearing on Monday, August 26, 1968.

~~Protestants-Petitioners~~ D. C. City-Wide Consumer Council, et al., have filed a motion seeking the postponement of that hearing. Several grounds have been offered to support the motion. In scheduling the hearing on this matter to commence ten days after the issuance of the order, the Commission was aware that this expedited procedure would require an extraordinary effort on the part of all parties to this proceeding. However, an overriding consideration was the indicated financial picture of the applicant as revealed by our preliminary investigation and study of its financial data, which included not only the testimony and exhibits submitted as a part of its application, but also the monthly and other financial reports filed with the Commission.

The net result of the operations for the first six months of this year indicates that the Company lost over \$700,000. Moreover, the applicant predicts that it will incur a net operating loss of over \$900,000 for the future annual period commencing August 1, 1968. This is a serious situation which the Commission cannot ignore or neglect. Because of the situation which the preliminary study indicated, the Commission concluded that the hearing should begin sooner than has been our practice in the past and proceed with greater dispatch than in the past. Nothing offered in the motion warrants a contrary course of action. Accordingly, the Commission is of the opinion that the motion should be denied.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the motion of the D. C. City-Wide Consumer Council, et al., for postponement of hearing be, and it is hereby, denied.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melvin E. Lewis".

MELVIN E. LEWIS
Executive Director